

Glossary

Anemometers	Small devices that measure wind speeds at different heights. They are installed on a meteorological tower.
Aquifers	Water-bearing rock or sediments below the surface of the earth
Attainment	When an area meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standards
Average megawatt (aMW)	The average amount of energy supplied over a specified period of time, in contrast to megawatt (MW), which indicates the maximum or peak output that can be supplied for a short period
Avian	Of or relating to birds
Best Management Practice (BMP)	A practice or a combination of practices that are the most effective and practical means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality goals
Candidate species (federal or state)	Those species being considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for possible addition to the list of endangered and threatened species
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	A national program coordinated by the National Resource Conservation Service designed to take small grain-producing lands on highly erodible soils out of production to reduce erosion and degradation
Cumulative impacts	Created by the incremental effect of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions
Cut-and-fill	The process by which a road is cut or filled on a side slope. The term refers to the amount of soil that is removed (cut) or added (filled).
Clean Water Act (CWA)	A federal law intended to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters and secure water quality
Decibel (dB)	A measure of sound intensity, defined as 10 times the logarithm of the ratio of two sound pressures squared
Decommissioning	The dismantling of the project at the end of its projected life span
Electric and magnetic field (EMF)	A force field associated with electric charge in motion. It has both electric and magnetic components and contains a specific amount of electromagnetic energy.
Emergent	Aquatic plant having its stems, leaves, etc. extend above the surface of the water

Endangered species (federal or state)	Those species officially designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, or Washington Department of Natural Resources as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range
Erosion	The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, or other processes
Floodplain	A portion of a river valley adjacent to the stream channel that is covered with water when the stream overflows its banks during flood stage
Fugitive dust	Dust released to the air through construction, agriculture, or other activities
Habitat	The environment in which an organism or biological population usually lives or grows
Intermittent	Occurring periodically, as in water flow in certain creeks or streams
Jurisdictional waters	Navigable waters (in the traditional sense) and Waters of the U.S. over which the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers has permitting authority
Kilovolt (kV)	A unit of electric potential and electromotive force, equal to one thousand volts
Listed species	Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant which has been determined to be endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, or by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife or the Washington Department of Natural Resources
Lithic	Of or relating to stone material
Megawatt (MW)	A unit of power, equal to one million watts
Meteorological towers	A regular feature of wind power projects. Attached to them are anemometers to measure wind speeds at various heights.
Mitigation	The step(s) taken to lessen the potential environmental effects predicted for each resource impacted by the project. Mitigation may reduce the impact, avoid it completely, or compensate for the impact.
Nacelle	The portion of the wind turbine mounted on the top of the turbine tower. It houses the generator, drive train, and gearbox.
Nocturnal	Active at night
Nonattainment	When an area does not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Noxious weeds	Plants that are injurious to public health, crops, livestock, land, or other property
Particulates	Fine solid particles that remain individually dispersed in the atmosphere (dust)
Passerines	Perching birds and songbirds such as jays, sparrows, finches, and warblers
Perennial	Having year-round water flows, as in certain streams and creeks
PM ₁₀	Particulate matter smaller than 10 microns; airborne dust created by disturbance of soil on unpaved roads, construction sites, and tilled land
Potable water	Water considered safe for human consumption
Project (the proposed project)	The proposed Maiden Wind Farm
Project footprint	The actual footprint of permanent project facilities, including roads, wind turbines, transmission line structures, substations, meteorological towers, and operation and maintenance buildings
Project site	The location of all permanent project facilities (the project footprint) in addition to all temporary facilities such as construction staging, laydown and turnaround areas, and quarries
Proposed action (for BPA)	To execute power purchase and construction and generation interconnection agreements to acquire and transmit up to 50 average megawatts (aMW) (up to about 200 MW) of power from the Maiden Wind Farm
Proposed action (for Benton and Yakima Counties)	To approve Conditional Use Permits and other permits for the construction of the proposed project
Proposed project	The proposed construction and operation of up to 549 wind turbine generators in Benton and Yakima Counties
Raptors	Birds of prey such as hawks, eagles, and owls
Reclamation	The restoration of lands used temporarily during construction (e.g., construction staging areas, access road margins)
Revegetation	The reestablishment of vegetation on a disturbed site
Right-of-way	An easement for a certain purpose over the land of another owner, such as a strip of land used for a road, electric transmission line, or pipeline

Riparian habitat	A zone of vegetation that extends from the water's edge landward to the edge of the vegetative canopy. The term is associated with watercourses such as streams, rivers, springs, ponds, lakes, and tidewater.
Roost site	A place where birds go to rest or sleep
Rotor	The hub and blade portion of the wind turbine that turns in the wind to generate power
Seismic event	An earthquake
Sensitive species (state)	Any wildlife species native to the state of Washington that is vulnerable and is likely to become endangered or threatened throughout a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal or threats
Shrub-steppe habitat	Habitat composed of various shrubs and grasses such as sagebrush, rabbitbrush, annual grasses, bluegrass, and wheatgrass
Species of Concern (federal)	Those species for which insufficient data have been gathered, but that show a decline in population
Staging areas	Areas set up near construction sites to temporarily store equipment and materials during construction
String	A sequential line of wind turbines
Study area	The study area is different for each impact analysis. It is the area surveyed or included in the impact analysis. It could include a 100-foot buffer from each project facility or it could include both Yakima and Benton Counties, depending on the nature of the resources being evaluated. The study area is defined under the Study Methodology subsection in each technical section of the EIS.
Substation	The fenced site that contains the terminal switching and transformation equipment needed at the end of a transmission line
Threatened species (federal or state)	Those species officially designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range
Topography	The physical shape of the land
Towers	The tubular structures that support the turbine nacelles and rotors
Transmission lines	Includes the structures, insulators, conductors, and other equipment used to transmit electrical power from one point to another
Turbine string	A set of wind turbines, generally aligned in a row along a ridge

Waters of the U.S.	A regulatory term defined in 33 CFR 328.3 to include waters such as lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams and tributaries), wetlands, sloughs, or natural ponds under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wetlands	Areas where the soil experiences anaerobic conditions because of inundation of water during the growing season. Indicators of a wetland include types of plants, soil characteristics, and hydrology of the area.
Wind turbine	A wind-driven generator that produces electricity